the need, improvement, maintenance, investment and participation by Govt./Private Sectors in the area of infrastructure. The rate of return and contractual compliance guarantee are some of the aspects discussed in the report.

(b) and (c) The tariff notification issued by the Ministry of Power provides for a return of 16 per cent on the equity relatable to the generating units at the plant load factor of 68.5 per cent and an incentive of upto .7 per cent raise in ROE for each 1 per cent raise in PLF above 68.5 per cent. These are considered as reasonable returns and would be applicable to all the projects cleared after 31-3-92.

(d) The tariff notification issued by Government of India is intended to regulate tariff by Generating Companies to State Electricity Boards as per Section 43(A) of Electricity Supply Act, 1948. The rate of return to be earned by BHEL are covered by the general directives issued by the Department of Public Enterprises etc.

Conference of Income Tax Commissioners

993. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three-day Conference of Income-tax Commissioners of the country was held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed in the Conference stating the outcome and the decision, if any, taken by Government in the matter;

(c) whether Government are aware of the income due on Cine Stars;

(d) if so, whether Government will apply the same procedure for collecting the total amount of Income Tax from the Cine Stars as applied with the general taxpayers stating the time-limit fixed for it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. An All India Conference of Chief Commissioners and Commissioners of Income-tax was held in New Delhi on 13th, 14th and 16th May, 1994.

(b) The following subjects were discussed in the Conference:—

(i) Budget collection and Action Plan.

(ii) Widening the tax base.

(iii) Assessment Procedure—Reforms.

(iv) Income Tax Administration.

(v) Search and seizure, survey and prosecution.

(vi) Modernisation and computerisation in the Income Tax Department.

On the basis of the recommendations made in the Conference, the following major decisions were taken:—

(i) Targets for Budget collections have been made.

(ii) Targets for reduction of arrear demand and also for cash collection out of the arrear and current demand have been set.

(iii) A new simplified return form (form 2A) has been introduced.

(iv) Returns showing income below certain limits will be excluded from the purview of detailed scrutiny during the financial year 1994-95 while all cases where positive information of evasion is available will be compulsorily scrutinised.

(v) A new administrative procedure where, a range Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax, instead of the Assessing Officer, will be the focal point, will be experimented.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government does not make any distinction between Cine Stars and the general taxpayers regarding recovery of tax arrears which is a continuous process and no time limit can be fixed for enforcing recovery of outstanding demands. Depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case, appropriate steps are being taken from time to time by the concerned income-tax authorities for recovery/reduction of tax arrears.

Decline in Revenue collection

994. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tussle over CBEC and CBDT chairmanships has resulted in the sharp decline over revenue collection; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Denial of World Bank and IMF Fund for poverty alleviation

995. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports appearing in The Economics Times of Sunday, 10th July, 1994 regarding denial of World Bank, IMF to fund poverty alleviation programmes in SAARC countries;

(b) if so, what would be its cascading effects on our own poverty alleviation programmes ?

(c) how much aid does India received from these World bodies on these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far no specific poverty alleviation project has been funded by the World Bank in India. However, a substantial part of Bank assistance is aimed towards poverty targetted intervention. Lending by IMF is not project tied.

Imported goods free from fiscal control

996. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to free all imported consumer goods from fiscal control;

(b) if so, from which date these controls are to be lifted;

(c) whether Government are considering only tariffs to be used to regulate such imports;

(d) whether items of consumer use have been identified; and

(e) if so, to what extent it will be helpful to fully liberalise economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) Rationalisation of customs duties on consumer goods with a view to a suitable tarrif-cum-OGL import regime has been incorporated in a Discussion Paper. However, no policy decision has yet been taken.

(e) Does not arise.

Interest free loan to sick unit by SBI

997. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India plan to give interest free loans to sick units; and